

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CU-05 NEA-14 EB-11 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 SAJ-01 CPR-02

SCA-01 COME-00 SR-02 ORM-03 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /156 W

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R 271406Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8525

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SOFIA 1506

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BU, GR, TU, CY, CGEN, EEWT, SCUL, OVIP (POPOV, IVAN)

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AUG 26

REF: A) SOFIA 1475; B) STATE 186648

1. MY MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV AUG 26 LASTED ONE AND A HALF HOURS (DESPITE SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION) DUE TO HIS EXTRAORDINARY LOQUACITY AND EAGERNESS TO ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS. HE CLEARLY PLACED HIS ACCOMMODATION ATTITUDE IN CONTEXT FORTHCOMING POPOV VISIT WHICH HE TERMED AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE REAL PROGRESS IN US-BULGARIAN RELATIONS. MUCH OF WHAT HE SAID WAS OF COURSE FROTH; BUT SOME INTERESTING THINGS EMERGED. SEE ALSO FINAL PARA FOR WHAT I CALL "MOOD MUSIC".

2. FORD ADMINISTRATION. MLADENOV ASKED ME TO CONVEY APPRECIATION FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER'S MESSAGE (STATE 174067) WHICH HE SAID HAD BEEN "HIGHLY EVALUATED" BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP, I.E. THE POLITBURO. IT HAD ALSO BEEN INTERPRETED AS JUSTIFYING FULL STEAM AHEAD WITH PREPARATIONS FOR THE POPOV VISIT FROM WHICH BULGARIA HOPES "MAXIMUM RESULTS, THIS BEING THE FIRST VISIT AT SUCH A LEVEL".

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3. CYPRUS. I CONVEYED POINTS IN PARA 1 REF B AND

MLADENOV IMMEDIATELY LAUNCHED INTO ARGUMENT THAT WHILE BULGARIA AGREES WITH EVERYTHING WE HAVE SAID IT ALSO WANTS MORE: "DEMILITARIZATION" OF THE ISLAND AND CONFIRMATION OF ITS NONALIGNED STATUS IN PERPETUITY BY THE UN. MODESTLY HE CHARACTERIZED IT AS HIS PERSONAL OPINION THAT THE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR SC INVOLVEMENT IN THE NEGOTIATION IS THE BEST IDEA THAT HAS YET BEEN PUT FORWARD.

4. SINCE HE HAD STRESSED THAT AFFAIRS OF CYPRUS SHOULD BE DECIDED BY THE CYPRIOTS THEMSELVES, I SAID WE AGREE WITH THAT PROPOSITION AND APPLY IT TO BOTH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. NO OUTSIDE FORCES, WHETHER GREECE OR TURKEY OR US OR USSR OR THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL, SHOULD TELL THE CYPRIOTS HOW THEY ARE TO RUN THEIR INTERNAL OR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. APPLYING PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERFERENCE ALSO TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS SEEMS ONLY REASONABLE. WE HAVE NO QUARREL WITH NON-ALIGNMENT OF CYPRUS IF THAT IS WHAT CYPRIOTS WISH.

5. RELATIONS WITH GREECE AND TURKEY. MLADENOV SAID WHILE BULGARIA REGARDS CYPRUS AS A NONALIGNED "NEIGHBOR" AND IS THUS ESPECIALLY CONCERNED OVER ITS FATE, NOTHING THAT HAPPENS THERE CAN INFLUENCE GORB RELATIONS WITH BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY WHICH ARE FOUNDED ON LONG-RANGE COMMITMENT TO PEACEFUL COOPERATION. IT IS THEREFORE MALICIOUS SLANDER TO CLAIM, AS SOME PAPERS HAVE DONE, THAT BULGARIA HAS BEEN TRYING TO FISH IN TROUBLED WATERS OF GRECO-TURK CONTROVERSY. BULGARIA IS EVEN-HANDED IN ITS APPROACH TO BOTH COUNTRIES AND WILL NOT SEEK TO MAKE POINTS WITH ONE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE OTHER.

6. MFN AND BILATERAL PROBLEMS. BRIEFED FOREIGN MINISTER ON LATEST MFN DEVELOPMENTS, POINTING OUT TRADE BILL WILL AUTHORIZE NEGOTIATIONS RATHER THAN CONFER AUTOMATIC BENEFITS ON ALL COUNTRIES NOW LACKING MFN STATUS. THEN I EXPLAINED THAT IN THIS AS IN OTHER MATTERS THOSE WHO ARE CONCERNED WITH US FOREIGN POLICY MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE GROWING POWER AND INFLUENCE OF OUR CONGRESS; AND IN THAT CONNECTION SAID IT WOULD BE A PITY IF US LEADERS IN EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATURE, CONFIDENTIAL  
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SOME OF WHOM HAVE NEVER MET A BULGARIAN LEADER BEFORE, WERE TO LEARN IN THEIR BRIEFING PAPERS ABOUT BULGARIA THAT IT IS THE ONLY COUNTRY IN EUROPE THAT JAMS THE VOA. IS THIS TO BULGARIA'S ADVANTAGE? SIMILARLY THE DIVIDED FAMILY QUESTION IS FOR MANY OF OUR LEGISLATORS THE ONLY ASPECT OF BULGARIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS THAT THEY KNOW ABOUT. TO THEM IT IS A HUMANITARIAN QUESTION. WHY WASTE PRECIOUS TIME ON DISCUSSION OF SUCH MATTERS DURING POPOV VISIT WHEN THERE ARE SO MANY MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DISCUSS?

7. VOA AND DIVIDED FAMILIES. ALTHOUGH I HAD NOT INTENDED TO ELICIT REPLY ON THOSE SUBJECTS AND TRIED TO GO ON TO OTHERS, MLADENOV SHOWED HIMSELF WELL PRIMED AND HIMSELF MENTIONED ZHIVKOV'S FORTHCOMING REMARKS ABOUT JAMMING AND DIVIDED FAMILIES TO SECRETARY DENT LAST APRIL. WITH A GREAT FLOOD OF WORDS HE CONVEYED IMPRESSION THAT BOTH ISSUES "COULD" BE SETTLED IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, BUT THERE WAS NO CLEAR COMMITMENT THAT THAT WOULD BE THE CASE. SINCE HE CAST HIS FORTHCOMING REMARKS IN TERMS OF NOT PUTTING THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN AN EMBARRASSING POSITION, I THOUGHT IT NECESSARY TO POINT OUT THAT IT IS BULGARIA THAT HAS NEEDLESSLY PLACED ITSELF IN AN EMBARRASSING POSITION. MLADENOV ALSO CLAIMED (SOFIA 1240) THAT THERE ARE ONLY 19 ACTIVE DIVIDED FAMILY CASES, BUT I POINTED OUT THE OLDER CASES DON'T RENEW THEIR APPLICATIONS FOR FEAR OF ATTRACTING UNFAVORABLE ATTENTION. ONCE THERE IS SOME MOVEMENT, THE EARLIER CASES WILL COME FORWARD. BULGARIA WILL LOSE NOTHING BY DEPARTURE OF SUCH PEOPLE, MANY OF WHOM ARE QUITE OLD.

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CU-05 NEA-14 EB-11 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 SAJ-01 CPR-02

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R 271406Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8526

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SOFIA 1506

8. BROADENING RELATIONS. MLADENOV RECALLED HE HAD RAISED WITH SECRETARY RUSK THE EXPANSION OF US-BULGARIAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND CONCLUSION OF LONG-TERM AGREEMENTS ON SUCH MATTERS AS TRADE, TOURISM AND NAVIGATION.

RUSK ON HIS PART HAD RAISED CONSULAR CONVENTION. MEANWHILE BULGARIA HAS CONCLUDED A CONSULAR CONVENTION WITH US BUT NOTHING HAS HAPPENED ON THE MANY OTHER AGREEMENTS THAT IT PROPOSED. WHY COULD NEGOTIATIONS NOT BE AT LEAST BEGUN? I REPLIED ALONG LINES PARA 2 REF B, ADDING THAT ABSENCE OF AGREEMENTS HAS NOT PREVENTED EXPANSION OF RELATIONS WITH HUNGARY AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA. LOOKING JUST AT CULTURAL EXCHANGES, SITUATION IN BULGARIA IS "PRIMITIVE", I SAID, IN COMPARISON WITH INTERCHANGES WITH OTHER EE COUNTRIES.

9. CULTURAL EXCHANGES. MLADENOV RESPONDED THAT IF HE HAD NOT MENTIONED CULTURAL RELATIONS THIS DID NOT IMPLY UNWILLINGNESS TO INCLUDE THEM IN OMNIBUS EXCHANGE AGREEMENT. WHEN I PERSISTED THAT EVEN IN ABSENCE OF AGREEMENT USEFUL THINGS COULD BE DONE, SINCE EXPERIENCE SHOWS THAT NEGOTIATIONS WILL IN ANY EVENT TAKE TIME, MLADENOV REVERSED FIELD AND SAID: "ALL RIGHT, LET'S NOT HAVE AN AGREEMENT NOW AND LET'S JUST PUT DOWN SOME POINTS WHICH WE SHALL CARRY OUT, SOMETHING WHICH WILL NOT BE A CONFIDENTIAL

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FORMAL UNDERTAKING. TAKE FOR INSTANCE THE THRACIAN EXHIBIT. THIS COULD BE SENT TO THE US WITHOUT AN AGREEMENT". I SAID ON SUCH PRAGMATIC BASIS WE CAN DO BUSINESS TO MUTUAL ADVANTAGE.

10 RECENT AND FUTURE VISITS. ON HIS TRIP TO SYRIA HE SAID NOTHING BUT PROPAGANDA BOILERPLATE; SAME WITH REGARD TO RAUL ROA VISIT. BREZHNEV IS NOT COMING TO 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, PODGORNYY WILL REPRESENT USSR. PRESIDENT ASAD COMES TO SOFIA IN SEPTEMBER, ZHIVKOV WILL GO TO IRAN IN NOVEMBER. MLADENOV'S TRIP TO SOUTH AMERICA IS POSPONED INDEFINITELY. HE WILL GO TO UNGA SEPT 22, USING 23RD TO GET ACCLIMATED AND ENTERING INTO FUNCTION 24TH. WILL RETURN HERE IMMEDIATELY AFTER MAKING HIS GENERAL DEBATE SPEECH 26TH OR 30TH. HE DID NOT RAISE QUESTION OF APPOINTMENT WITH SECRETARY IN NEW YORK.

11. MOOD MUSIC. FOREGOING ACCOUNT WOULD NOT BE FAIR WITHOUT SUMMARIZATION OF REPEATED REMARKS BY MLADENOV THAT BULGARIA STANDS READY TO DO ANYTHING THAT WILL PROMOTE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH US: "WE KNOW WE DON'T RANK HIGH IN YOUR FOREIGN RELATIONS, WE DON'T EVEN RANK HIGH AMONG EE COUNTRIES THAT YOU ARE INTERESTED IN, BUT SURELY DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS IS IN MUTUAL INTEREST". "THERE IS A GREAT DEAL THAT COULD BE DONE IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD". "NAME ME ONE OTHER COUNTRY WITH WHICH THE US HAS SO FEW PROBLEMS". AND, INEVITABLY: "WHY COULD NOT

SECRETARY KISSINGER STOP OFF IN SOFIA WHILE HE IS IN  
EUROPE SOMETIME OR IN CONNECTION WITH ONE OF HIS TRIPS  
TO THE MIDDLE EAST"?

12 DEPT REPEAT AS DESIRED.  
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## Message Attributes

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